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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/775,272	02/10/2004	Roberto Semeia	KAR 002	1277
39232	7590	01/04/2006	EXAMINER	
Serafini Associates 7660 FAY AVE. STE H378 LA JOLLA, CA 92037			HEPPERLE, STEPHEN M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3753	

DATE MAILED: 01/04/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/775,272	SEMEAIA, ROBERTO
	Examiner Stephen M. Hepperle	Art Unit 3753

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.  
 2a) This action is FINAL.                    2b) This action is non-final.  
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.  
 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
 6) Claim(s) 1-3,22 and 24 is/are rejected.  
 7) Claim(s) 4-21 and 23 is/are objected to.  
 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
 a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:  
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.  
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
     Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3/1/2004

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
     Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_.  
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)  
 6) Other: \_\_\_\_.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Semeia. Semeia shows a second stage regulator with diaphragm 15 moving lever 21 which moves the valve. Inlet 5 provides connection to a first stage regulator at one end and a seat for valve 20 at the other end. The valve 20 has a short tapering stem of smaller diameter than the seat and is supported on centering tabs (unnumbered). The valve is biased closed by bias spring 19. The pivot tips 22 of the demand lever extend through slots in a tubular member to engage the valve and prevent its rotation.

Claim 1 is alternatively rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by MacNiel. MacNiel shows a second stage regulator with diaphragm 50 moving lever 116 which moves the valve. Inlet fitting 86 provides connection to a first stage regulator at one end by a flexible hose and a seat 94 for valve 98 at the other end. The valve 20 has a stem of smaller diameter than the seat and is supported on centering tabs 104 at the valve seat end. The valve is biased closed by bias spring 106. The square shape of the other end of the valve stem fit in a square hole in the end of tube 80 to prevent its rotation.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 2, 3, 22 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over MacNiel in view of Turney. Turney shows a spring biased valve (Fig. 3) that has centering tabs 61 that engage slots 33 in tube member 31 (Fig. 2) to prevent rotation. It would have been obvious to replace the square cuts at both ends of the MacNiel valve with a set of centering tabs riding in slots cut into the tubular member as shown by Turney as an equivalent arrangement to center the valve and prevent rotation, and to eliminate the need to cut a square surface on the MacNiel valve stem and to eliminate the need to machine a square hole in the end of the MacNiel tube. Regarding claims 22 and 24, the tabs are all the same length from the axis of the valve, and a single plane extending through the valve axis also extends through two tabs.

Claims 4-21 and 23 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephen M. Hepperle whose telephone number is 571-272-4913. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gene Mancene can be reached on 571-272-4930. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Stephen M. Hepperle  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3753

SMH